Anchorage Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Radio Science and Operations Center
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK

Keep up with the AARC at www.kl7aa.org

Next General Membership Meeting:

Thursday February 4th @ 1900

Zoom link in Calendar on the website!

The AARC Goes 'Zoom'

AARC Members and other friends:

Until this COVID stuff is over, the Anchorage Amateur Radio Club will be hosting their monthly membership meetings (first Thursday of every month at **7:00PM Alaska time**) with Zoom (an on-line video conferencing software system). We have found that Google Meet is difficult to use if you do not already have a Google account, and don't want one.

Zoom is used in the educational system for remote learning, community council meetings, and even on-line jury trials. Early on, there was concerns over the security of the Zoom software, but those concerns have been remedied. Please refer to the article in Forbes that compares Google Meet with Zoom:

https://www.forbes.com/sites/kateoflahertyuk/2020/10/14/zoom-beats-microsoft-teams-google-meet-with-game-changing-new-features/

Zoom works best with almost any modern desktop computer with a webcam and some combination of a headset and microphone or microphone and speakers. It also works with laptop computers, tablets, and phones, both Apple and Android.

The AARC VEC program has been quite successful administering remote computer-based on-line license testing using Zoom.

To log-on to an AARC membership videoconference using Zoom, please go to our web-site events page at: https://kl7aa.org/events/ or go to the main page at: https://kl7aa.org/ and click on "visit our calendar" (blue hypertext). Then go to the first Thursday of the month on the calendar and click on "General Membership Meeting." A window will pop-up with blue hypertext that says join meeting via Zoom. If you already have the Zoom client on your computer, you will then join the meeting, if not, Zoom will instruct you how to download the client and then you will join the meeting.
If your computer does not have a camera, you can still join us via voice only at:

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

You will need the meeting ID to join which will be on the AARC calendar.

Thank-you

Dave N9AIG and Walter KL7WY

Note: Zoom logo is courtesy of Zoom see: https://zoom.us/

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD VIDEO CONFERENCE
November 17, 2020
Radio Science Operation Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK
APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Lara Baker AL2R

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Lara Baker AL2R, Dave Webb N9AIG, TJ Sheffield KL7TS, Walter Yankauskas KL7WY, John Lime III KL4OF, Kent Petty KL5T, Rich Gillin AL4S, Matt Ostrander KL4QH, Keith Clark KL7MM

GUESTS/NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

Morgan Schoenecker KG7SEQ

EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:

Alice Baker KL2GD, Mathew Notte WL4DX, Richard Tweet KL2AZ

UNEXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:

Wigi Tozzi KL0R

REQUEST FOR AGENDA ITEMS/CHANGE IN ORDER:

Lara Baker AL2R requested that we add Harris Radio representation (#3) under new business in the agenda.

TIME CRITICAL ITEM(S):

None

REPORTS

VE PROGRAM

Kent Petty KL5T had the following comments:

- ◊ Remote testing. We are doing two sessions every day: one in the morning, one in the afternoon.
- ◊ We are also adding new VE's throughout the country.
- ◊ Since we started doing the remote exams, we had 482 requests, 324 examinations and we have a 93.5% pass rate.
- ◊ We have shut down all in-person examinations due to the COVID-19 issue.

- ◊ We continue to update remote testing applications and are doing well.
- ◊ There is not an update on the COLEM application.
- ◊ Applications for new volunteer examiners is picking up.
- ◊ Brandin Hess AL6I is working on updates on the VE guide.

Walter Yankauskas KL7WY and Lara Baker AL2R indicated that both Brandin Hess AL6I and Kent Petty KL5T did an amazing job putting together the VE program and thanked them both.

Kent Petty KL5T also thanked Walter Yankauskas KL7WY for stepping up and becoming a lead Volunteer Examiner in the AARC VEC program.

SECRETARY REPORT

The November 5th membership videoconference meeting minutes and the board videoconference of October 20th meeting minutes were presented. There were a few comments and corrections. Subsequently, a motion was made by Keith Clark KL7MM and seconded by John Lime III KL4OF to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Webb N9AIG indicated that he would be a backup to the new secretary Morgan Schoenecker KG7SEQ starting January 1, 2021.

Dave Webb N9AIG stated at the last general membership meeting that some members could not connect to Google Meet. A suggestion was made to make the general membership meetings on Zoom and smaller meetings such as board and individual committee meetings be made on Google Meet.

A motion was made by John Lime III KL4OF and seconded by Keith Clark KL7MM to have board meetings and club committee meetings on Google Meet and general membership meetings on Zoom. The motion carried unanimously.

Dave Webb N9AIG volunteered to write instructions on how to use Zoom for the newsletter for future general membership meetings.

TREASURER REPORT

Kent Petty KL5T indicated that the club is solvent, and all the bills are paid. Nothing out of the ordinary to report. We received the Alaska CARES grant. Kent Petty KL5Tstarted a GoFundMe for new tires on the F350. We have had a good response to date from AARC members and the Air Force.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that the airport lease remains the same. We also have a plan for redundancy for our utility accounts.

We continue to talk about how to get a little more interest on our savings account.

GRANT REQUESTS

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that we have had no requests.

GAMING

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that there are discussions with Richard Tweet KL2AZ about the possibility of doing pull-tabs at an airport kiosk.

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that he would stay on as a gaming committee member into 2021.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that there is no current activity. Future activity is pending on some final decisions about our club structure.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated there was not any use or requests for the KL7AA callsign. Dave Webb N9AIG indicated there have not been any requests to use the RSOC call sign (KL7G).

PROJECTS COMMITTEE

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that we have both winter and summer construction projects. For winter projects, TJ Sheffield KL7TS is trying to standardize the Northeast and Northwest operating positions. There is a mix of software versions and they are not all operating the same and there are some problems with computer sound cards.

Matt Ostrander KL4QH suggested a project to reduce the noise floor in the RSOC. This project would involve using both shielded copper ethernet cable and fiber cable. Matt is assembling a budget for new shielded switches and cable and has a contractor in mind to perform the required terminations. This project is in the early stages.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS recommended we go through the exercise once again of shutting off the breakers in the building and try to determine where noise sources are originating.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that another project is to rent a heavy piece of equipment to move earth around to level out some of the West side where alder was removed and remove the earthen truck loading ramp on the west side of the front gate. Because of the location of the lamppost, this ramp is unusable and should be removed.

We are also looking to rent another earth auger to place additional vertical 4 x 4 supports for guy ropes for additional antennas.

We would also like to engineer and permit the installation of the snow shelters we had at Rowan Street to house additional equipment. Right now, we have two trailers in the parking lot, and it would be nice to get these under shelters.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that Kent Petty KL5T was handling the purchase of truck tires for the F350. Lara Baker AL2R recommended that we purchase sticky winter tires for the truck and will talk with Kent Petty KL5T off-line to determine what is best for the truck.

It is not known at this time if the truck has chains for winter snow and ice. At the time of purchase, it did not come with chains. It will be determined if the old motorhome chains fit the F350.

Dave Webb N9AIG indicated that the basement UPS that just decided to turn off will be investigated. Dave also indicated that the vault caps have been fabricated and installed. The “Nordstrom Rack” has also been installed to support a UPS between the Northeast and Northwest operating stations.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that in the meeting they did discuss the pull-tab possibility at the airport.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that Richard Tweet KL2AZ knows the individual that makes announcements at the airport. This same individual narrated a script for us. This script was broken up into various WAV files that were edited, and the new edited script runs five minutes and 20 seconds. A long-term plan is to add this WAV file to video to make a public service announcement for the club. Mark Sabel WD6BMJ has the capability to combine video with audio narration. This service announcement would engage others to support the club.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that the boiler is misbehaving in that it is gurgling and burbling and may be close to failure. Richard Tweet KL2AZ is reviewing the situation with the airport to see if they can help with the boiler troubleshooting. It is in our lease that the boiler is our problem and worst case is we must replace the boiler.

With respect to the rest of the building, there are limitless repair and rebuild projects that we need to be relying on grants to complete. This would include garage doors, insulation, windows, wiring, and lighting. We should make building projects part of the project committee.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated he had a conversation with the Homer emergency operations individual and apparently this same individual received funds from CARES that will be used for a SHARES station. Apparently, the individual in Homer has someone that helps with grant writing and may be a potential resource for the AARC.

If we are going to do projects on the building, typically these projects are high dollar items and we're going to need some financial help.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Rich Gillin AL4S indicated that we currently have 149 total members according to CiviCRM. Lifetime membership currently stands at 61.

Eligible voting membership (Alaska residents) is currently 113. This sets our quorum number for next year at 11.

Rich Gillin AL4S also indicated that the bylaws need to be revised when we go from a membership dues organization to a donation-based and grant-based organization. How will we be voting directors and officers into their positions in future years moving to this new organization?

Keith Clark KL7MM did receive the bylaws from Friends of Pet's who is a donation-based organization. This could help us with the rewrite of our own bylaws.

Lara Baker AL2R requested that Rich Gillin AL4S review who has paid until the end of the year and determine if refunds are appropriate in the year 2021.

Dave Webb N9AIG indicated that the last approved board meeting notes said that we would become a donation-based organization come January 1, 2021 unless something came up between now and the end of the year.

Kent Petty KL5T indicated that QuickBooks has the capability to bill individuals monthly for their ongoing donation if that is how they choose to contribute to the AARC.

Lara Baker AL2R indicated that as of January 1, 2021 we are a donation-based organization. If we have renewals for membership in 2021 the individual must be contacted to determine if they want their money back or if they are donating their money.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Kent Petty KL5T indicated we have an individual studying for their amateur radio license and may be an asset to the education program.

EQUIPMENT REPORT

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that Kevin Opalka KL1V did a great job programming the ski patrol hand-held radios. He purchased a programming cable for these radios to perform the programming.

Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that we received a donation from Hageland Aviation Services. The major donation is a marine radio which is an Icom HF model 700 with a power supply. The power supply was brand-new and still in the box. Both the radio and the power supply are now outdated but parts are still available for the set. This could be used if we get our Marine shore license. All equipment needs to be tested which included a few handheld radios and power supplies.

Matt Ostrander KL4QH indicated that he had a conversation with Microsoft, and they have approved us for 10 software licenses for Windows 365 available for nonprofits.

EMCOMM

Kent Petty KL5T indicated they are still waiting on the equipment move from the Tuttle Street warehouse to the new location.

TJ Sheffield KL7TS indicated that Homer Emergency Operation Center is looking to get a SHARES license and be active in the Wednesday morning net.

Kent Petty KL5T is still exploring the possibility of a land-based maritime shore license. The Coast Guard has been contacted to see if they can help with this effort.

Kent Petty KL5T would also like to have personnel at the RSOC continually around the clock to be prepared for emergency communications.

OLD BUSINESS

01. Adopt a room - A spreadsheet is posted at the RSOC please sign up.

02. Job descriptions – Looking for someone to take this task.

03. Deceased members - Keith Clark KL7MM indicated that he picked up the existing plaque and sent a picture of it to Morgan Schoenecker KG7SEQ. Several silent keys need to be added to the plaque. Keith Clark KL7MM will determine who can make the engraved brass tags to add to the existing plaque.

NEW BUSINESS

01. The December general meeting will be a videoconference. We will contact representatives from ASARA. TJ Sheffield KL7TS will arrange this presentation.

02. Christmas party - In person is not possible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

03. Harris Radio representation - There is no representation from Harris Radio in Alaska. Kent Petty KL5T and TJ Sheffield KL7TS are looking to train the military in HF radio and basic operation of Harris radios. This is a work in progress and the board is supportive of this endeavor and more information will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted as recorded on 11/17/2020 by Dave Webb N9AIG, AARC Secretary.

ANCHORAGE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MEMBERSHIP VIDEOCONFERENCE
December 3, 2020
Radio Science Operation Center (RSOC)
6721 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK
APPROVED

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by President Lara Baker AL2R. There were 16 attendees with 15 members in attendance.

A membership quorum was established by membership introductions.

Introductions were made for all attendees.

Business

Dave Webb N9AIG requested that everyone sign in with your name and callsign in the chat box just to the right of the video images.

Not everyone received the email reminding them of this general meeting.

Kent Petty KL5T encouraged members to join the VEC program, if interested please contact Kent Petty KL5T at vec@kl7aa.org

Due to COVID-19 restrictions there is not a Christmas party this year.

Presentations

TJ Sheffield KL7TS introduced Tom Plawman KL4RQ as a representative from ASARA (past president). ASARA stands for the Alaska Search and Rescue Association. Tom retired in 2016 as a geophysicist in the oil industry. He has also been involved with the Nordic Ski Team and the Alaska Incident Management Team.

Tom Plawman KL4RQ indicated he would tell what ASARA does and how the AARC might fit into the mission of Alaska Search and Rescue.

Search and rescue is a volunteer activity and it's also a local activity. Team members routinely risk life and limb "in order to save lives." "These things we do that others may live."

Outline of tonight's presentation:

1. Overview of SAR in Alaska - who does what?
2. ASARA - Alaska Search and Rescue Association
3. AIMT-SAR - Alaska Incident Management Team for Search and Rescue

ASARA and Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Alaska SAR - who does what?

DPS (Alaska State Troopers) has statutory responsibility for most land SAR in Alaska. With less than 400 troopers they rely heavily on volunteer teams for boots on the ground.

DOD (RCC, PJ, Pavehawk, HC-130, ANG, etc.) supports AST as needed and one available.

USCG does mostly maritime SAR but supports some land SAR, particularly in SE Alaska in the Alaska Peninsula.

SAR relationships include the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Public Safety.

ASARA's Mission

1. Advocate for volunteer SAR organizations statewide
2. Fund and support training for volunteers
3. Support integrated communications

ASARA does not directly deploy personnel to the field (except AIMT)

ASARA membership: 21 volunteer organizations from Barrow to Sitka with over 700 volunteers represented.

ASARA Volunteer Teams

1. Statewide resource of well-trained volunteers
2. ICS trained
3. ASARA radio network
4. First responder medical training (levels by team)
5. Year around, all weather, all-terrain
6. Trained search dogs (some teams)
7. Technical rescue skills (varies by team)
8. Experience with public, spontaneous volunteers
9. SAR incident management
10. Dive Team

ASARA training is assisted by having multiple grants of about $40,000 per year. With the end of the five-year 2015 grant, ASARA currently is funded only by dues and donations. As a result, ASARA is seeking other grants and funding. The typical types of training courses include:

1. Initial response incident commander
2. NASAR missing and lost persons incidents
3. SARAZ SAR planning section chief
4. NASAR search and rescue technician
5. Wilderness first aid/first responder
6. Technical Rescue

ASARA communications include 50 HT 1500 ALMR (trunked) radios, 245 HT1250 VHF handhelds, 20 base stations, integrated communications frequency set such as AST, AKNG, which are multiple team compatible. The new repeater requires a revised code plug. A CODAN ET-5 PHF tactical repeater (portable) is also included which was purchased with the last remaining funds from a grant in 2015. The radio puts out 3.5 W and has an internal or external battery with several antenna options. Fortunately, its weight is only 21 pounds with the internal battery pack.

AIMT – SAR

Nationwide, about 97% of SAR incidents are resolved within 24 hours. Usually, small numbers of personnel are involved, and it is a relatively simple management problem. The other 3% can evolve into complex, multi-day operations involving multiple agencies, many people, aircraft, etc. These can become a complex management problem.

SAR volunteers from across Alaska experienced in performing island search and rescue and SAR management:

- Trained and experienced managing SAR within ICS framework
- Technical skills (GIS/mapping, search software, IT, logistics, communications)
- Most members are also active on a SAR field team in Alaska

The Incident Command System (ICS) is used extensively because it is expandable into large operations if the need arises.

The SAR software can track individual team search efforts such as search tracks, close, dog interest, hazards, structures, and aerial searches.

AARC and ASARA

The MESH system and VHF base station radios for SAR. With a great deal of help from Kent Petty KL5T and Bill Laxson KL7IPO we have MESH Internet and a VHF base station at the SAR cache. The radio was programmed with both public safety and amateur frequencies.

The AARC helps ASARA by having a pool of trained radio communications experts. It also has physical assets to deploy for SAR missions such as mobile communications, antennas, etc. It also has specialized communications capability for remote areas with HF. So, the AARC can have more involvement in disaster response.

ASARA can help the AARC with training courses (ICS) and exercises, give greater visibility in the emergency management community, awareness of AARC capabilities and it gives the AARC the opportunity to use communication skills (not just radios) in real world missions. It will also recruit new people to amateur radio.

Mutual Benefits to AARC/ASARA

- Combined grant applications
- Critical mass for training courses (e.g., COML)
- Better response to major disasters
- Helping our wider community

AARC and ASARA

- Recommend that the AARC initially apply for ”Associate Membership” in ASARA
- This category was specifically designed for organizations which are not specifically organized for SAR, but can contribute to the ASARA mission
- The associate membership fees are $50 a year

Tom Plawman KL4RQ was thanked for his presentation and his dedication to both the AARC and ASARA.

All members are encouraged to participate in the South-Central Simplex Net on Wednesday evenings at 8 PM. Please refer to the AARC newsletter for frequencies and modes of operation that are used (start on 146.52 MHz FM).

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM. Respectfully submitted as recorded by Dave Webb N9AIG (AARC Secretary) on December 3, 2020.

Tech Talk

There was not a tech talk this evening.

This article is from Marc Barnos of Boatpriority.com, a site about boating, kayak fishing, and more!

HISTORY OF SOS, MORSE CODE AND BOATS (WITH QUIZ)

Have you ever wondered how people on boats or ships conveyed that they needed help?
For generations, each region relied on various crude ways of expressing distress calls. Only a handful of people can understand.
They used visual and auditory signals, depending on foghorns and flags, to convey the call.
When learning kayaking one of my instructors taught me the paddle signals.
To convey your state to others around you since verbal exchange often gets complicated in a water body. It got me thinking about the distress signals such as SOS meaning, and modern-day use.

THE FAMOUS SOS SIGNAL

When someone in the year 2020 goes ahead and uses SOS together like that, we understand its intent. It means that the person signaling it through any means needs some assistance. SOS has become a universally understood message.
Given how this was not the case two centuries ago, it says much about the extent of maritime dangers and rescue before that.

WHAT DOES SOS STAND FOR?

"SOS" is an abbreviation for "Save Our Souls" or "Save Our Ship."
Or so we all thought.
It turns out, like me, many people believe SOS stands for something. "Save Our Souls" and "Save Our Ship" phrases are only backronyms. They are not abbreviations. They have been incorrectly conjoined with the Morse code term SOS.

THE HISTORY OF SOS SIGNALS AND MORSE CODE

As soon as radio transmission and telegraph services improved in the mid-1800s, people started using them to communicate at sea.

SAMUEL MORSE (1791 – 1872) AND ALFRED VAIL (1807 – 1859)

Using the telegraphic principles, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail came up with the Morse code in 1838.
Morse code assigns letters, numbers, special characters into two symbols. These symbols are dots or short marks (.) and dashes or long marks (-). Frequency of usage determines the use of dots and dashes.
The combination of these two can translate any phrases, like the combination on zero (0) and one (1) can translate any number in binary code.

MORSE CODE OR VAIL CODE?

So, who is the inventor of the morse code?Even if it is well known attributed to Samuel Morse, the work of Alfred Vail and contribution make some historian saying than he is the inventor.

To be fair, "that code" wouldn't have been possible without both of them.

The technical contribution of Alfred Vail is huge. See an interesting article on the subject and the narration of William Baxter, Vail's assistant during the invention. William Baxter narrated that they worked nights and days for the construction for the new machinery.

So, if you closely read the narration of William, you can notice that when building the device, the idea and the reality merged so new ideas and adaptation come up mostly from Alfred Vail which influenced the final version of the code.

Since telegraphic wires meant people could transmit messages over long distances in a short time, countries started investing in creating a network of telegraph wires.
That way of communicate spread out across the globe, connecting continents to continents. Since there was no uniform regulatory body to authorize what the distress codes are, many organizations came up with their signals. The most famous of them is the "CQD" signal, used by the Marconi Company.

HOW DID IT BECOME KNOWN AS SOS?
The Germans were the first to generate the signals "… —…" to signal help. These signals were easy to recognize. They translate to a "di di dit, dah dah dah, di di dit" from radio signals.
And in the International Morse code, they translate into English letters of S and O.
This is how the letters SOS became the famous distress call signals.

SOS is easy to interpret if written down: it is the same from the right side as it is from the left when you read it. The same is the case with upside down.We call it an ambigram.

Another rare ambigram of that sort is NOON. Do you have one? I think the answer in NON (NO in French).Ok I will not abuse the jokes.
This clever property makes SOS signal the common signaling technique adopted , and not only in sailing.

SOS AS INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS SIGNAL
On 3rd October 1906, the Marconi Company and German Telefunk organizations understood using "SOS" signals. The signal was universally adopted as International Distress Signal on 1st July 1908.

SOS USED FOR THE FIRST TIME

The first ship to generate an SOS distress call was the *RMS Slavonia* on 10th June 1909 near the Azores. The steamer SS Arapahoe was soon followed on 11th August 1909 near North Carolina, USA.

United Wireless Telegraph Company received these signals in North Carolina.
Although SOS was adopted in 1908, the new distress signal took some years to become mainstream finally.

VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS (VSD)

With the advent of the satellite age, the Morse code slowly faded from the maritime gestures. Instead, the standard "Mayday" command has replaced the SOS call. This conversion happened in 1927.
If you are thinking about boating, knowledge of visual distress signals (VSDs) is necessary. It would help if you also learned to interpret it correctly. Various modern-day SOS calls require visual and auditory cues, e.g., flares, distress torch lights, mirror reflections, whistles, and flags. Besides, GPS tracking and long-distance radio calling are also commonly used in seas and oceans.

TYPES OF MODERN-DAY SOS CALLS

There are three main signals you can give off, but there are certain conditions.

- Hand-held red flares (3 in number) [during day and night]

Electric distress light (only 1) [only night]
Hand-held flare (1) and parachute flares (2) [during day and night]
When you go for kayaking or boating, always make sure you have a small bag that contains a signal mirror, signal torch, night signal kit, a few aerial, parachute, and hand-held flares, orange and red flags to represent danger or help and and whistle. Yes it seems to be a lot but anyone of those can be the cause to save your life.

SOS SIGNAL WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

To generate the dot (.) use the flash shortly – one second – and for the dash (-) use the flash longer – two seconds

YOU SAW A DISTRESS SIGNAL — NOW WHAT?

If you are out in the sea in a boat or ship and you see a flare in the sky, try to identify the position and distance. You can do this by holding your arm straight out in front of you and closing your fist. Try to guess the flare's height compared to the fist you make, with the thumb pointing out. It is best to measure this with the horizon aligning with your fist's base, thumb pointing skyward.

Try to identify If the flare was a half, one, or two fists. If you see any other visual distress signals, try to figure out if you are equipped enough to help. It is better to report such cases to the Coast Guard and let the professionals handle such dangerous situations.

Who invented The Morse code?

a : Samuel Morse b : Alfred Vail c : Both

How do you wrote YES is morse code (space between the letters)?

a : -.-- . .. b : -.-- . ... c : -.. . ...

How do you code number 10?

a : ..--- ----- b : ....- c : ----- .---- d : .---- -----

What is the meaning of the code : .--. .- - .. . -. -.-. . ?

a : pattern b : patient c : patience

AARC / RSOC Start Café Press Storefront

Posted By *Kent Petty* On December 21, 2020 @ 1:26 AM In Club Products,Fundraising

By: Kent Petty, KL5T

The Anchorage ARC / Radio Science and Operations Center has "opened" a Café Press storefront. Right now, we only have products on the site with the traditional AARC logo, but the RSOC logo and other interesting designs will be coming soon.

The store is a great way to purchase some cool goods and to support the club in the process. There are all types of items available including T-shirts, sweatshirts, hoodies, coffee mugs, baby cloths, pillows, keychains, stickers, cell phone covers, mousepads, and much more!

You can get to the store by hovering over the "Online Store / Shop" on the AARC website main banner and selecting "Café Press Store". But for your convenience, here's a direct link to the store: https://www.cafepress.com/aarcrsoc [1]

Some of these items might make great Christmas gifts!

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Square Waves – DMR, an Introduction

Posted By *Kent Petty* On December 28, 2020 @ 1:03 AM In Digital Voice,DMR

By: Will Dubois, N7DUD
December 28, 2020

A caveat: I am not a technical expert. My goal here is to share some things that I have learned and show how I use some of the cool technology we have access to in the hope to spur others into potentially exploring something new.

Before I start talking about DMR (Digital Mobile Radio), I always feel the need to put it into perspective. I am not suggesting DMR (or any digital mode) is a replacement for analog or "older" modes. Also, new technology often requires us to sacrifice simplicity of operation to get the advantages of newer features and functionality (think about cell phones 20 years ago vs. today). Digital radio is just another tool in our toolbox, sometimes it's the right tool, sometimes it's not.

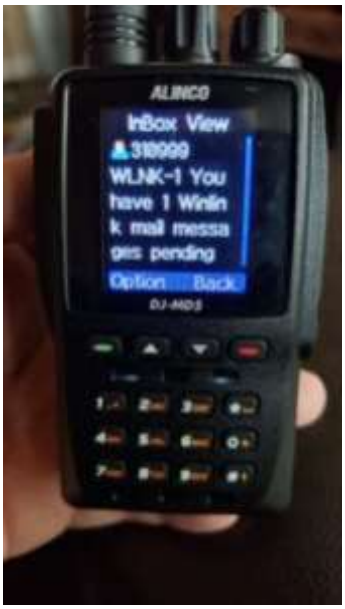
Why should you care about DMR? First, DMR is an open standard so you are not limited to one equipment manufacturer. This has resulted in lower-priced radios as compared to other popular digital modes. In addition, DMR also has better battery life than analog radios (~40% more TX time), signal error correction, multiple "talkgroups" per repeater, and two paths per repeater (see below). These benefits do introduce a level of complexity for the user, but they are worth the price of admission in my opinion.

How does it work? DMR radios don't transmit a stream of modulated audio like an analog radio (unless you're using it in analog mode of course). DMR radios contain a device called a vocoder. The vocoder takes the signal from your microphone and turns your analog audio into digital bits – 1's and 0's. These bits are sent in packets that include redundant bits to facilitate forward error correction and cyclic redundancy checks (FEC/CRC). Error correction is used when the received signal is less than perfect and allows the receiver to recover a certain amount of signal (data) loss. This results in the user hearing clear audio with no loss on a transmission that would have static if you were using an analog radio.

One other feature I want to highlight is the ability to have two simultaneous conversations on a single repeater. The system does this using a technology called Time-Division Multiple Access (TDMA). Here's how I explain TDMA: Bob and Fred are local hams that use a DMR repeater that is linked to some wide-area system. Bon and Fred are both in Anchorage using the same repeater, and they are both currently transmitting. Bob is talking to a friend in Homer, and Fred is talking to a ham in Washington. The way the repeater handles both transmissions is by telling the radios to (very rapidly) take turns transmitting. Bob's radio will transmit for about 30milliseconds, then pause and allow Fred's radio to transmit for about 30ms. This is all handled automatically and is transparent to the user. Bob and Fred just key up and start talking, and the radios and repeater handle the "traffic control". These are called "Time Slots" and are set up when you program the radio. (This is also one of the major reasons DMR radios get better battery life since the radio isn't always transmitting when you are pressing the PTT!)

That's probably enough for now. Next time I will cover talkgroups and some other features of DMR.

Will-N7DUD



A look back at EMCOMM in 1972

Posted By *Kent Petty* On December 28, 2020 @ 1:43 AM In ARES,EMCOMM,RSOC Operations

From the February 29, 1972 Anchorage ARC Newsletter

By: Wilse Morgan, W6PVF/KL7, 344-1257

The result for service to link-up the repeater here on Ft. Rich and the repeater at Pedro Dome (Fairbanks) was submitted by Civil Air Patrol to Alaska Communications Region. There were seven endorsements to the letter from the Air force, Army and the State of Alaska. This link will be a real help for our amateur activities and should prove a real benefit for public service.

The Civil Air Patrol will be having its National Communications exercise on March 11th starting at 1600 Z and lasting for four hours. We will be using the repeater to pass traffic from Wing Headquarters on Elmendorf to my place up on the mountain behind Bunny River. The anchor man on Elmendorf will be KL7GMP, Pat McDaniel.

The traffic comes from Hamilton AFB, near San Francisco, via 11.120 mc SSB to Elmendorf. It will then be sent to my QTH both by the repeater KL7USA and by VHF link 148.15 mc. It is then sent to the CAP stations throughout Alaska on 4585.0 kc SSB.

Fast forward to 2021: Wow! How some things change and how some stay the same! We're still using SSB on HF, FM simplex and repeaters on VHF, but have added VHF, UHF, and HF digital modes (packet, Winlink, Pactor, MT63, etc.), MESH networking, APRS, satellite comms, and much more. We not only use amateur communications, but now also support the State of Alaska Emergency Operations Center as their SHARES station. We still need volunteers at served agencies, need to improve our infrastructure, and need to practice our traffic-handling skills.

If you'd like to get involved in our local EMCOMM effort, drop a note to info@kl7aa.org [1]! We can use your help!

Should You Become a Volunteer Examiner?

Posted By *Kent Petty* On December 28, 2020 @ 3:08 PM In License Testing,VEC,Volunteer,Volunteer Opportunity

By: Kent Petty, KL5T
Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC

Remember when you took your license examination to get your very first amateur radio license? Remember those "volunteer examiners" (at least 3 of them were there). Remember the paper examinations? Remember the wait to get your examination graded? Remember how long it took to actually receive your license from the FCC? Well, we aren't in Kansas anymore Toto!

Some of you may know that the Anchorage ARC VEC was the first Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) in the country to give a "remote" examination"? That was back in 2014 and was permitted after we requested a subtle change to be made to the wording in Part 97 relative to license examinations. We ramped things up in 2019 when we started moving away from paper examinations and started developing our computer-based testing process. Once we had computer-based testing worked out, we stopped all "paper" exams. Then COVID-19 hit. Prior to COVID-19, the Anchorage ARC VEC pretty much only coordinated examinations in Alaska. We had started to offer "remote testing" to other locations around the country because we realized that there were certainly folks that experienced the same challenges as some Alaskans who live remotely, namely, to get a testing team to them, or to get them to a testing team. Computer-based testing bolstered our remote testing effort in that we no longer needed to send examination kits out to the proctor for the examination.

After COVID-19 hit, nearly all in-person examination sessions were suspended across the country. We were faced with the realization that we were the only VEC that was already fully ready to offer remote examinations. We therefor went ahead with offering remote examinations to anyone anywhere who wanted to test. This meant that each of our VEs could be at separate locations and linked via a web-based video conference such as Google Meets or Zoom.

Fast forward to December 28, 2020. We have had 553 requests for remote examinations, given 383 examinations, helped 275 people earn new licenses, and helped 83 upgrade their existing licenses. At present we typically offer 2 exam sessions per day, and we have VEs located all over the country (Alaska, Oregon, California, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Texas, Tennessee, and Michigan). One of the great features of our program is the speed at which we submit applications to the FCC. When examination sessions are held during a weekday, successful examinees typically receive their callsign or upgrade within 30 to 60 minutes from the time they complete their examination.

Do You Want to Be a VE?

Our active VEs will all convey that helping with our Remote Testing program is an extremely rewarding endeavor! And the examinees are so thankful as well! We've tested folks all over the country and internationally in places like Afghanistan, Jordan, Djibouti, Kuwait, Spain, and Germany. Our examinees likely would not have been able to test without our service.

We do have a need for more VEs in our program. We have quite a few existing VEs who have never participated in a remote exam session and hope they will step forward. General, Advanced, and Extra Class license holders are eligible to become VEs. If you aren't a VE and would like to become a VE, the process is pretty simple:

Apply here to be a VE: https://kl7aa.org/vec/become-accredited/ [1]

1. Complete an open book examination based on Part 97 and our VE Guide
2. Get set up "technically" to help with exams. Basically that means you need to be set up on Zoom, our Chat System, and our Examination platform.

If you have more questions about our VE program, drop a note to vec@kl7aa.org [2].

We do hope you will apply.

73

SIDE NOTE:

By the way, a VEC is a "body", not a person. It is an "entity" that "coordinates" examination sessions. A Volunteer Examiner (VE) is a person, a member of the test team. Every VE is accredited by 1 or more VECs. However, accreditation by 1 VEC does not automatically make one accredited with another VEC.

AARC/RSOC Now Accepts Donated Vehicles of All Types!

Posted By *Kent Petty* On December 31, 2020 @ 4:20 PM In Donations,Fundraising

By: Kent Petty, KL5T, Treasurer
December 21, 2020

GREAT NEWS! The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club (AARC) / Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) has partnered with Vehicles for Charity. What does this mean? Well, now you have an opportunity to part with unwanted cars, trucks, motorcycles, RVs, campers, ATVs, UTVs, snowmachines, airplanes, heavy equipment, etc. at no cost to you! All proceeds benefiting the AARC / RSOC! Vehicles can be running or not!

Vehicles can be donated at any time and the process is easy. The proceeds of each donation benefit the AARC / RSOC, an organization devoted to supporting our community through emergency communications and STEM education.

The AARC / RSOC will use support from the vehicle donation program to help fund many worthy initiatives, including operation of the RSOC itself, repeater sites, purchase of new emergency communications and training equipment, resources for our training room, test gear, operation of our heavy emergency communication heavy rolling stock, etc. For example, a recent fundraising event outside of the vehicle for donation program enabled us to purchase a badly needed new set of tires for our Ford F-350 communications support/response vehicle.

HOW TO DONATE

The process is simple and you can donate by going to vehicle donation page at: http://www.vehiclesforcharity.org/Donate/AARC.html [1].

The donated vehicle is usually picked up in 3-5 days at the donor's convenience. Please provide a clean title (if applicable) and make sure the vehicle has no major damage. A receipt for the donation will be sent as a follow-up in the mail which can be used for tax purposes.

Maybe it's time to let go of that clunker you'd had in the driveway, or maybe even a herd of vehicles on the back of the property! We could sure use your help!

Happy New Year!

FCC Likes $35 For Amateur Radio License Fee

Posted By *Kent Petty* On January 1, 2021 @ 11:16 AM In FCC Actions

The FCC issued its Report and Order FCC 20-184 [1] which sets the amateur radio licensing fee at $35. This is reduced from the initial proposed fee of $50. In the report and order, the FCC states that "we adopt a new application fee schedule that significantly updates the Commission's previous fee schedule in both types of applications and other processes covered by the fee requirement and also in the fee amounts." It addresses fees with many radio services, and unfortunately, also adds the $35 fee to the amateur service. The FCC further states that their goal ïs to "comply with the RAY BAUM'S Act requirements and adopt fees that are fair, administrable, and sustainable."

There were nearly 4,000 comments submitted addressing the amateur radio license fee. Many, of course, wanted amateur licenses exempted per section 8(d)(1) of the Act. Alas, the FCC asserts that there is no such exemption and that they have no authority to create such an exemption. They further disagreed with comments suggesting that an exemption should be given due to the nature of the service and its emergency and public communications service, how it could/would discourage younger people or those who couldn't afford the fee. Some even suggested that the fees generated from amateur licenses should benefit the service by taking more robust enforcement actions against unlawful operators. The FCC commented that they have no discretion as to how the fees could be spent, as all of these revenues must be deposited in the U.S. Treasury.

How and when the fees will go into effect has not yet been determined. The FCC advised that they will announce these details with at least 30 days advance notice. They are now developing the procedures as to the how the fees will be collected.

Much of the discussion regarding amateur licenses can be found under the section titled, "b. Personal Licenses", which is covered in paragraphs #30 through #44. This is the URL for the complete Report and Order: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-184A1.pdf [2]

Looking for Old AARC Newsletters

Posted By *Kent Petty* On January 1, 2021 @ 1:23 PM In Newsletters

While the club has a pretty good inventory of newsletters going back to 1972, there are gaps / missing copies. If you happen to be one of those folks who like to hang on to things, perhaps you can check your archives, electronic or paper, to see if you might have some of our missing texts. If you have any of these, please reach out to us at info@kl7aa.org [1]!

By the way, you can find our newsletter archives here: https://kl7aa.org/newsletters/ [2]

Here are issues we need (newest to oldest):

August 2017
May 2017
April 2017
March 2017
February 2017
July 2016
May 2016
April 2016
February 2016
January 2016
May 2015
September 2012
July 2007
May 1999
November 1995
October 1995
September 1995
June 1995
May 1995
March 1995
May 1990
December 1989
1987 – All months except for May

July 1986
July 1985
June 1983
March 1983
June 1982
May 1982
February 1982
November 1981
September 1980
July 1980
January 1980
October 1978
June 1978
March 1978
1976 – All months except for October, November, and December
1974 and 1975 – Need all issues
1973 – Need all months except for February
December 1972
November 1972
October 1972
September 1972
August 1972
January 1972
Need all issues prior to 1972

How to Keep Tabs on the AARC / RSOC

Posted By *Kent Petty* On January 1, 2021 @ 2:03 PM In General Info

What are the various ways we attempt to keep our members informed about the ongoings of the club and maybe other interesting topics related to amateur radio? Well, we've got more than one! Let me list the ways!

1 **General Membership Meetings:** Held on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7 pm. If it weren't for COVID-19, we'd be having these meetings in-person at the RSOC. Until COVID-19 resolves, we're holding these meetings via ZOOM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7. Go to the club's website to get the Zoom link. You can find our calendar listed on our main webpage at kl7aa.org, but you can go directly to our calendar at https://kl7aa.org/events/ [1].

Monthly Newsletters: If you are a club member, you should be receiving our monthly newsletter via e-mail when it publishes. If you are a member and you are NOT receiving the monthly newsletter via e-mail, please let us know at editor@kl7aa.org [2]. Of course, ANYONE can find our current and archived newsletters on our website at https://kl7aa.org/newsletters/ [3]

1 **Webpage:** Lot's of information is located on our webpage. The home page is located at https://kl7aa.org/ [4]

Blog Posts: We put out blog posts on our website. These can be found on our home page on the website at https://kl7aa.org/ [4], or directly at https://kl7aa.org/blog/ [5]. Typically, our blog posts also get inserted in our newsletter and are also "pushed" out to our Facebook and Twitter pages. More on Facebook and Twitter below.

1 **Facebook:** Our Facebook page is located at https://www.facebook.com/kl7aa/ [6]. As mentioned above, most activity is related to blog posts we put out, but there is some other action if you are into that sort of thing! We have 344 followers.

1. **Twitter:** Yes, we have a Twitter account, @AnchorageARC. Our blog posts show up there for sure. Right now we have 42 followers.
2. **KL7AA Reflector:** What does the reflector do? Well, if you send an e-mail to it from your registered e-mail address, that message will be distributed to the 151 current subscribers on the list! It's a great way to get info out to the group, and a great way to keep up with some of the current happenings. Further, as a registered member of the list, you can get a list of the other registered members (well, at least those who don't opt to conceal their identity in the options), can set the system to give you daily messages, and set a number of other options.
To join the reflector go to http://www.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/kl7aa [7]

There, you can subscribe and get started. It's pretty simple and straight forward, but if you need help, give us a shout at info@kl7aa.org [8].

Happy New Year!

Our Internet Vulnerabilities – Why We Need to Maintain our non-Internet-Based Communications Systems

Posted By *Kent Petty* On January 3, 2021 @ 8:37 AM In EMCOMM

The CBS News Sunday morning 1/3/2021 episode contains a piece by Ted Koppel about our cyber vulnerabilities, specifically, the cybersecurity threats posed by the alleged Russian hack of SolarWinds. Among those he interviews is the former Director of the NSA, Keith Alexander. In this story, the vulnerabilities to our government and industrial complex by Russia and other U.S. adversaries to cyberwarfare, both from an espionage perspective and an attack perspective are discussed.

This story highlights yet another reason for us to maintain our communications capabilities that don't rely on internet connectivity. Here is a link to the story which is presented from 4:00 to 14:25 in the video:

https://www.cbsnews.com/video/sunday-morning-full-episode-1-3-2021/ [1]

We need to keep our amateur radio, SHARES, MARS, and other capabilities in place to back up our high-tech communications networks. This means we need to continue to practice, to keep our nets active, to keep our own equipment and systems current and updated, etc.

This is but one of many articles and reports on this issue, I just happened to catch this one this morning as I was enjoying the coffee and thought it might be worth highlighting and sharing.

AARC Membership Zoom meeting guest speakers

Posted By *Richard Tweet KL2AZ* On January 5, 2021 @ 11:33 AM In Uncategorized

January 7th – DX Engineering
February 4th – DR. Bob Heil K9EID of Heil Sound
March – waiting on responses
April 1st – Elecraft

Go the the https://kl7aa.org/events/ web page for links to the monthly Zoom membership meetings

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Anchorage ARC VEC Accepting Remote VE Applications

Posted By *Kent Petty* On January 13, 2021 @ 5:29 PM In VEC

By: Kent Petty, KL5T, Chairman, Anchorage ARC VEC

The Anchorage ARC VEC is accepting a limited number of applications for Volunteer Examineers (VEs) to assist with our Remote Volunteer Examination Program. Applicants must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age
2. Hold a valid FCC-issued Amateur Radio license of General, Advanced, or Extra class (Extra class preferred)
3. Never have had their license revoked or suspended for cause
4. Have a suitable computer with camera, microphone, and internet bandwidth to participate in "remote" examination sessions
5. Ability to apply rules relative to Volunteer Examiner activities as prescribed in Part 97 and in the Anchorage ARC VEC manual
6. Agree to abide by the policies and procedures set forth by the Anchorage ARC VEC

Pass an open-book, 30-question, multiple choice examination

7.Remain "current" in the Anchorage ARC VEC program by participating in at least 1 examination session per year, or by retaking the Anchorage ARC VE written examination if no participation in an examination session over the past 12 months

8. Maintain current contact information with the Anchorage ARC VEC

Previous experience as a VE is preferred by is not required.

Go here to learn more about becoming a Volunteer Examiner with the Anchorage ARC VEC: https://kl7aa.org/vec/become-accredited/ [1]

Go here to apply to be a VE with the Anchorage ARC VEC: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOz00AQdy0Ms6aVc4tNanAbi3qk8PW76_Yr2ULUUd_9Xl94A/viewform [2]

Only a limited number of applications will be accepted, so please don't wait!

Thanks and 73.

New Swap & Shop

Posted By *Kent Petty* On June 29, 2020 @ 5:51 PM In Swap & Shop | No Comments

We've got a new way to post members' items they'd like to sell or trade on our site. Simply e-mail swapandshop@kl7aa.org [1] and your listing will get posted as a blog post on the website, pushed out to our Facebook page, Twitter page, and also to the KL7AA Reflector. Oh…yes, and the listing will be included in our monthly newsletter.

Be sure to include:

- Your Name
- Your Callsign (if you have one)
- Contact info – you MUST provide either a good telephone number or e-mail address (or both!)
- A clear listing of the equipment or items you have for sale or trade and the prices of each.

VHF and UHF Low Noise Preamps For Sale

Posted By *Kent Petty* On December 15, 2020 @ 9:18 PM In Swap & Shop

Merry Christmas Specials:

I have restored two ARR 144-MHz preamps using NE334-S01 PHMET devices
with results:
#1 – 0.18 dB NF, 25.65 dB gain, draws 10ma at 12.5v
#2 – 0.344 dB NF, 24.72 dB gain, draws 10ma at 12.5v
Normally the P144VDG exhibits 0.50 dB NF using a mgf-1302

Both have BNC input and output; no TR relays
Each for $25.00 (Free shipping inside the US)
For both $42.00 (Free shipping in one box inside the US)

#3 – 0.52 dB NF, 16.56 dB gain, draws 35ma. This is an older DEMI
432-MHz preamp in diecast aluminum box with NF connectors.
$20 (Free shipping inside the US)

I take PayPal or check (you wait two weeks for check to clear)

Preamps tested with HP8970B Noise Figure Meter and Maury MT7618L
Noise Source (not in calibration).

73, Ed – KL7UW
http://www.kl7uw.com [1]
kl7uw@acsalaska.net

Kenwood 480SAT for Sale

Posted By *Kent Petty* On November 30, 2020 @ 7:48 PM In Swap & Shop

From Bill Smith, W7HMV
I have a Kenwood 480SAT for sale. It includes an LDG KT-100 antenna tuner, a Heil Pro 7 headset with foot switch, an Icom speaker, a Nifty Mini-Manual along with the Kenwood manual, and finally an add-on 500Hz IF filter for CW and a 1.8kHz IF filter for voice.
I purchased the radio new and it has been indoors the entire time.
Asking $450.

Contact: W7hmv@cox.net

Have you signed up to support YOUR Radio Club?

Here are two ways you can help fund our Anchorage Amateur Radio Club. Both are really easy on your part. Please consider doing both options, if you haven't signed up, please do.

Fred Meyer will give us money!

All you have to do is shop there and sign up AARC as your non-profit beneficiary. Once you sign up, a portion of every purchase you make is donated to AARC. There is no increase to you for your purchase by declaring AARC as your beneficiary. Currently there are three individuals signed up for this worthy cause. Let's see if we can make it 100%.

You still earn your Rewards points, Fuel Points, and Rebates just as you do today.

The AARC's Fred Meyer non-profit number is UB064.

If you don't have a Fred Meyer Reward Card, they are available at their service desk.

Tell your family, friends and neighbors about this opportunity too.

(Fred Meyer can be done via Internet)

Amazon Smile will give us money!

If you do shopping on-line at Amazon, you can designate AARC as your charitable organization. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to AARC. Log-on to:

https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7225693

For more information.

AARC is Accepting Credit Cards!

AARC can accept your credit card for payment of dues and donations. See Kent Petty KL5T at the next club meeting, club working Wednesdays or Board meetings.

Now may be the time to renew your membership; don't forget!

Thanks Kent KL5T, for setting this up!!

Monthly Events

1st Thursday each month: AARC general meeting - **7:00 PM** in the Radio Science and Operations Center (RSOC) Building at 6721 Raspberry Road, Anchorage. Talk in will be on 147.34/94 repeater or 146.49 Anchorage simplex talk frequency.

1st Thursday each month: Moosehorn Amateur Radio Club General meeting - **7:00 PM** Location changes, contact George Van Lone KL7AN donnav@acsalaska.net for information . Call for directions on 146.88 repeater (no tone). Moosehorn ARC also holds a weekly luncheon every Thursday, locations and times change, contact George Van Lone, KL7AN: donnav@acsalaska.net

2nd Saturday each month: PARKA (Polar Amateur Radio Klub of Alaska) Meeting at 11:00 AM. Polar Amateur Radio Klub of Alaska. All amateurs welcome. Some business is discussed. Originally established as an all woman organization, membership now includes spouses or significant others. Talk in on 147.30+.

2nd Saturday each month (except for holidays): VE License Exams at 2:00 PM. at the RSOC, 6721 Raspberry Road. Be sure to bring a government issued photo ID, a copy of your current license (if any) and any Certificates of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE). Contact: Lara Baker, AL2R (president@kl7aa.org)

3rd Tuesday each month: AARC Board Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Radio Science and Operations (RSOC) building. All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

1st Tuesday of each month: EARS general meeting at 6:00 PM. EARS meetings are held at the EARS shack location. Contact info - Pete Pritchard KL7IS for more information (email president@kl7air.us) EARS: 552-2664 (recording); Talk in on 146.67-. Email: club@KL7air.us or Ron Keech KL7YK (Station Manager) kl7yk@arrl.net

4th Saturday of each month: Valley VE Testing at 7:00 PM. Sessions will be held at the Red Cross Office at 7 pm on the fourth Saturday of each month unless it is a major holiday weekend. Contact Ken Hudson, KL2HF, Kenputer@hotmail.com or 907-354-0206.

The last Friday each month: MARA meeting at 7:00 PM, St. Johns Lutheran Church Basement. Talk-in help for the meeting can be acquired on the 147.33 repeater. Further details can be found by contacting Don Bush, KL7JFT, dbush@gci.net.

Active Nets in Alaska

VHF NETS

The local VHF Nets have a Packet side as well. Look for 2 meter Packet at 145.01 (Eagle) and 147.96 (Valley). The Eagle and Valley nodes provide a talk" or chat function. Also, if you are unable to connect directly to one of the nodes, try digipeating through EARS on either frequency. Do this by typing ***c eagle v ears*** or ***c valley v ears*** on the appropriate frequency. Check www.KL7AIR.us for more information on the digipeaters.

ARES Net: 147.33 w/ 103.5Hz tone (Backup 147.30 w/ 141.3Hz tone) —Thursdays at 8:00PM

No Name Net: 146.43 simplex—Sundays 8:00PM

South Central Simplex Net: Meets on 146.52 FM then shifts to 144.2 USB, 446.0 FM, 432.2 USB, 223.5 FM, 927.5FM, 1294.5 FM, 52.525 FM, 50.125 USB, 29.6 FDM, 28.4 USB, 145.01 Packet (Eagle Node), 147.96 Packet (Valley Node) - Wednesdays 8:00PM

Alaska VHF Up Net: 144.200 USB—Saturdays 9:30 AM

Alaska Morning Net: The Alaska Morning Net is held Monday through Saturday from 9:00 AM—11:00 AM on the IRLP Reflector 9109. This net can be reached via several hosting nodes in the area. Please visit www.status.irlp.net/index.php?PSTART=2&mode=3 to find the closest node. Also the net can be reached via EchoLink on 9191 (WL7LP-R) and Allstar nodes 27133 and 29332. The Alaska Statewide ARES net is held on Thursday evenings at 8:30pm (following the Anchorage ARES net) at the same locations and also the 8:30pm Sunday evening Alaska Statewide Radio Link.

HF Nets

Alaska Snipers Net: 3.920 MHz 6:00pm daily

Alaska Bush Net: 7.093 MHz 8:00pm daily

Alaska Motley Net: 3.933 MHz 9:00pm daily

ACWN (Alaska CW Net): 3540 kHz, 7042 kHz, 14050 kHz Non-directed, CW calling and traffic watch for relaying NTS of other written traffic. AL7N monitors continuously receivers always on WL2K. (RMS connection available— AL7N@winlink.org)

Alaska Pacific Emergency Preparedness Net: 14.292 MHz 8:30am M-F

ERC HF Net: 3.880 MHz 8:30pm Sundays

Update from TJ Sheffield, KL7TS (Net Manager of South Central Simplex Net):

The order of operations have changed to better fit the equipment available at the club.

After each excursion to a different band/mode, they return to 146.520 FM simplex and ask for questions, comments, late check-ins or one-way signal reports before moving on to the next frequency/mode:

146.520 FM

144.200 USB

446.000 FM

432.200 USB

223.500 FM

52.525 FM

50.125 USB

29.600 FM

28.400 USB

29.075 AM

If you squint you can see the new RSOC logo flag

27.035 USB—Citizens Band (CB) Channel 7

927.500 FM

1294.500 FM

1296.100 USB

145.010 Eagle Node (packet)

147.960 Valley Node (packet)

144.390 APRS (text message check-in). Listen for instructions from Net Control with regard to APRS callsign/SSID

REMINDER that the South Central Simplex Net is every Wednesday starting at 2000 (8pm AST)

Per TJ, KL7TS, in September there were 5 operating sessions with 530 individual band/mode check-ins, for an average of 33.1 per week.

DATA YOU CAN USE				
Frequency	**Tone**	**Callsign**	**Features**	**Area**
147.18-	88.5	ADES		JBER
146.88-	no tone	AL7LE	Phone patch	Kenai/Soldotna
146.82-	103.5	WL7CWE	IRLP	Anchorage
146.76-	123.0	KL3K	IRLP	Seward
146.94-	103.5	KL7AA		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
224.94-	no tone	KL7AA		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
444.70+	103.5	KL7AA		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
146.67-	103.5	KL7AIR	MARS station	Anchorage & Highway N
147.30+	141.3	KL7ION		Anchorage, Wasilla, Northern Kenai
146.85-	103.5	KL7JFU	Cross Banded to 444.600	Mat Valley
444.6+	103.5	KL7JFU	Cross Banded to 146.85	Mat Valley
146.91-	no tone	KL7PM		Homer
147.15+	107.2	NL7S		Wasilla
147.84-	103.5	WL7CWE		Wasilla repeater
147.33+	103.5	WL7CWF	Cross linked to 443.900	Very Wide Area
443.900+	103.5	WL7CWF	Cross linked to 147.33	Very Wide Area

South Central Area Simplex Frequencies	
146.52	National Calling and Emergency Frequency
147.57	DX Spotting Frequency
146.49	Anchorage Area Simplex Chat
146.43	Mat-Su Valley Simplex Chat
147.42	Kenai Peninsula Simplex Chat

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WinLink Information		
144.91	WL7CVG-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 1200 baud
145.19	KL7JFT-10	Palmer/Mat-Su RMS
144.91	WL7CVG-4	South Central Digipeater, 1200 baud
144.97	KL7AA-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 1200 baud
223.66	WL7CVG-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 9600 baud
441.175	WL7CVG-10	Anchorage Area RMS, 9600 baud

Support Amateur Radio in Anchorage, Alaska

Donate online or mail this coupon to AARC, PO Box 190192, Anchorage, AK 99519

Online donation is convenient and secure at https://kl7aa.org/ , select donations at the top right of the home page.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

☐ I want to make a one-time general donation

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $_____

☐ I want to make regular monthly donations. *Thank you for your ongoing support! Indicate the monthly amount:*

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $75 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $_____

☐ I want to sponsor a specific project/program.
Sponsorships are $25 monthly

☐ Please send me a supply of donation envelopes

☐ Please charge my credit card below

Why donate? The Anchorage Amateur Radio Club is a nonprofit organization (501C3) that supports community program communications such as the Anchorage RunFest, Walk and Roll for Hope, the Dog Jog, Tour de Cure, Alaska Run for Women, The Women's Gold Nugget Triathlon and Team Rubicon. We also periodically practice our emergency communication skills in case of a major disaster such as an earthquake. Our equipment is both battery and generator backed up. We are run only by donations and volunteers. Please donate to this worthy organization.

Total donation:$_____

☐ Check or money order enclosed

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard Exp:_____ CVV code:_____

Account # _____

Signature: _____

☐ I would like to be kept up to date on AARC activities; please send me your monthly newsletter